

God's Masterwork, Volume Seven

The Final Word — A Survey of Hebrews – Revelation

2 John: A Letter to a Lady

A SURVEY OF 2 JOHN



The Heart of the Matter

John's second letter is much less lengthy and less complicated than his first letter—perhaps because it's a personal and private letter. John mentioned "truth" five times in this letter and "love" four times, and both are key to understanding 2 John. John's desire was that "the chosen lady" who received this letter would maintain a balanced perspective on life: love and truth . . . practice and doctrine . . . walking and standing . . . accepting and rejecting. Reading the letter aloud a couple of times will reveal the balance between truth and love—a balance greatly needed in our day of ridiculous and unbiblical extremes.



Discovering the Way

1. Four Questions to Answer

Who was "the elder"? Who was "the chosen lady"? What was the situation? Why is it still relevant?

2. An Analysis of the Letter

John's greeting and introduction is in verses 1–3. His exhortation, "walk in the truth," is in verses 4–6. His warning, stand against error, is in verses 7–11. His personal conclusion is in verses 12–13.

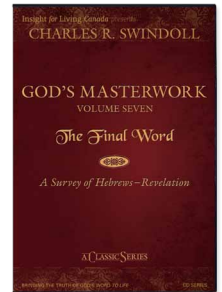


Starting Your Journey

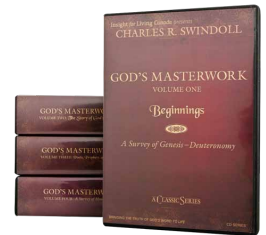
Three abiding principles apply to our day. First, loving others is a basic expression of authentic Christianity, so continue to walk in love. Second, embracing the truth is equally essential, so continue to stand for the truth. Third, when error is detected our love must be kept within the boundaries of truth and discernment, so maintain that balance.



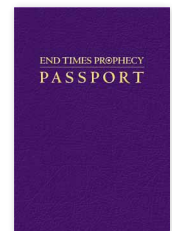
Tools for Digging Deeper



God's Masterwork,
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SECOND JOHN

	Introduction	Walk in Truth and Love!	Stand against Error!	Conclusion
	<u>Greeting</u> <u>Affirmation</u> <u>Encouragement</u>	<u>The lady's children</u> <u>The lady herself</u> <u>Love one another; walk in obedience</u>	<u>The circumstance (many deceivers)</u> <u>The warning ("Watch yourselves!")</u> <u>The instruction (strong but necessary)</u>	<u>Personal</u> <u>Farewell</u>
	VERSES 1–3	VERSES 4–6	VERSES 7–11	VERSES 12–13
Emphasis	Encouragement to love and affirm		Exhortation to be discerning	
Tone	Gracious	Concerned	Strong	Warm
Personal Touch	I love you (1:1)	"I ask you" (1:5)	I warn you (1:8)	"I hope to come to you" (1:12)
Theme	Loving others within the limits that truth allows			
Key Verses	1:5–6			
Christ in 2 John	Jesus, the Son of the Father, is the only way to the Father (1:3, 9).			

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